

09/964,402
T36-137931M/AIO
NGB.174

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REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116, since no new claims or issues are raised and the amendments merely cancel claim 19 and 20 so that remaining claims are in condition for immediate allowance.

It is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

Claims 1-16, all of the claims pending in the present Application, are allowed. Claims 19 and 20 are canceled to permit these claims to immediately pass to allowance.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

The Examiner is again requested to acknowledge on the record that the certified copy of the priority document, Japanese Application 2000-296635 having Japanese filing date September 28, 2000, has been received by the USPTO and that the present Application filed September 28, 2001, therefore, is entitled the benefit of this earlier Japanese filing date.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-16, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Date: 7/2/04

Respectfully Submitted,


Frederick E. Cooperrider
Reg. No. 36,769

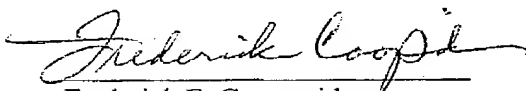
McGinn & Gibb, PLLC
8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200
Vienna, Virginia 22182
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Joanne Silberman, Group Art Unit 3611 at fax number (703) 872-9306 this 2nd day of July, 2004.



Frederick E. Cooperrider
Reg. No. 36,769